

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Motor Vehicles Checked for Poisonous Gases

Honk! honk! A giant truck with red cab, red trailer and house-high superstructure roars around the bend on the ribbon-like highway and starts to climb the grade over California's famed Tehachapi Pass. This is only one of thousands of such vehicles that carry the state's agricultural crops and merchandise of all sorts from north to south and south to north. Like slow-crawling dragons they creep over the mountain passes, smoke emitting from their Diesel motors and pale exhaust gases from those equipped with standard motors.

At a small depression in the mountains where there is a short stretch of nearly level highway stand a highway patrolman and a young doctor with strange-looking boxes that contain scientific equipment. The patrolman signals the truck driver and the Leviathan comes to a slow stop. The head of the driver leans out of the half-open cab window.

"What's wrong, buddy? I'm not overweight."

"Nothing wrong, yet," responds the patrolman.

"This doctor is from the State Department of Public Health and he wants to test your bus for poisonous gases in the exhaust, to find out if you're in danger of passing out."

"O.K.! Glad to find out about that. Sometimes I get sleepy going over the hump. The steady roar of the old motor sort of puts you to sleep but sometimes I think that the sleepiness when I'm on the grade has a headache along with it and I don't feel so good."

"We'll find out about that," says the young doctor. "I'll put my instruments on your floor board, get in the cab with you, and make the test while you are running. It wouldn't be a fair test if we were at a standstill with your motor running. We might get unreliable readings because of leakage of gases through cracks between the floor boards."

"What gas is it that is so poisonous?" asks the driver.

"Carbon monoxide," replied the doctor. "The same old CO that used to cause so many deaths in the days of artificially manufactured domestic and illuminating gas. It is released in the combustion of gasoline and while it is very dangerous it is impossible to recognize its presence except through a scientific test such as this. The gas is colorless, odorless and in sufficient quantity might produce death without the victim ever knowing what happened to him. In small quantities it may produce drowsiness, headache, nausea, dizziness, weakness, or difficult breathing."

The doctor rode in the cab with the driver for several miles—a five minute run—at the end of which time he took readings from his instruments to measure the carbon monoxide in the atmosphere.

"Well, doc, what's the answer?" asked the driver.

"You are exposed to a dangerous concentration of carbon monoxide—150 parts per million. The presence of more than 100 parts per million con-

stitutes a serious health hazard. No doubt your drowsiness and headaches were due to this exposure. Many accidents supposed to be due to a sleepy driver are actually due to carbon monoxide poisoning. You'd better find the mechanical defect that causes this concentration of gas."

"I know right now," replied the driver. "The exhaust pipe gasket blew out a month ago and I didn't have any repairs made because I didn't regard it as necessary. I'm going to get a new gasket installed at the next stop. Thanks for the test, doctor. No more headaches for me!"

During the past month the California State Department of Public Health Industrial Hygiene Service has, in cooperation with the State Highway Patrol, tested 688 motor vehicles for the determination of carbon monoxide. They were distributed as follows:

Truckee and Donner Grade-----	70
Dunsmuir -----	134
Altamont Pass-----	191
El Tejon Grade (Ridge Route)-----	154
San Geronio Grade (Banning)-----	139
Total -----	688

Of these, the drivers of 24 vehicles (or 3.47 per cent of the total) were found to have been exposed to dangerous concentrations of carbon monoxide while operating vehicles on the highway.

These investigations, undertaken by Dr. J. P. Russell of the Industrial Hygiene Service of the California State Department of Public Health, will be continued during the coming weeks. Drivers of motor vehicles, in order to play safe, should always keep car windows open while driving. If drowsiness and headache occur, it is safer to have the mechanical equipment checked and corrected, if found faulty, than to take a chance of incurring an accident or serious illness by carbon monoxide poisoning.

LOCAL HEALTH OFFICERS APPOINTED

Dr. Felix Rossi has been appointed city health officer of Fairfield to succeed Dr. C. C. Purviance.

Dr. H. H. McGillis has been appointed city health officer of Sonora to succeed Dr. Harold Swing.

It seems an inseparable accompaniment of the advancement of knowledge that things once thought to be units turned out to be composites; the magic prism of investigation is always splitting up apparent entities into an ever-increasing number of new elements.—E. O. Jordan.

FULL-TIME HEALTH UNITS IN CALIFORNIA

(1930 U. S. Census Bureau Population Data)

COUNTIES (21)

Alameda—All unincorporated area and all incorporated cities except Alameda, Berkeley, Oakland, Albany, Hayward, Livermore, Emeryville, and Pleasanton; 52,797 out of 474,883 population.

Contra Costa—All unincorporated territory and all incorporated towns except Antioch, El Cerrito, Pittsburg, and Richmond; 41,472 out of 78,608 population.

Fresno—All unincorporated territory and all incorporated cities except Firebaugh, San Joaquin, Clovis, Fresno, Fowler, Selma, Coalinga, Sanger, Reedley, Kingsburg, and Parlier; 73,370 out of 144,379 population.

Imperial—All unincorporated territory and all incorporated cities except Brawley, Calipatria, and Holtville; 47,152 out of 60,903 population.

Kern—All unincorporated territory and all incorporated cities except Bakersfield, Taft, and Mariposa; 52,042 out of 82,500 population.

Los Angeles—All unincorporated territory and all incorporated cities except Los Angeles, Long Beach, Pasadena, San Marino, Beverly Hills, South Pasadena, and Vernon; 716,168 out of 2,208,492.

Madera—All territory within the county; 17,164 population.

Monterey—All territory within the county; 53,705 population.

Orange—All territory within the county; 118,674 population.

Riverside—All unincorporated territory and all incorporated cities except Beaumont, Elsinore, Hemet, Blythe, Perris, Banning, San Jacinto, and Corona; 63,208 out of 81,024 population.

San Bernardino—All unincorporated territory and all incorporated cities except Chino, Colton, Needles, Ontario, and San Bernardino; 68,560 out of 133,900 population.

San Diego—All unincorporated territory and all incorporated cities except El Cajon, Escondido, Chula Vista, and Coronado; 195,894 out of 209,659 population.

San Joaquin—All territory within the county; 102,940 population.

San Luis Obispo—All territory within the county; 29,613 population.

San Mateo—All unincorporated territory and all incorporated cities except Burlingame, Daly City, San Bruno, South San Francisco, Belmont, San Car-

los, San Mateo, Menlo Park, Redwood City, and Atherton; 17,487 out of 77,405 population.

Santa Barbara—All unincorporated territory and all incorporated cities except Santa Barbara; 31,554 out of 65,167 population.

Santa Cruz—All unincorporated territory within the county; 7032 out of 37,433 population.

Stanislaus—All unincorporated territory and all incorporated cities except Newman, Patterson, and Turlock; 50,191 out of 56,641 population.

Ventura—All territory within the county; 54,976 population.

Yolo—All territory within the county; 23,644 population.

CITIES (11)

Berkeley, Oakland, Palo Alto, Pasadena, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Barbara, and Fresno; 2,707,911 population.

Total population served by full-time health units; 4,527,554 out of 5,677,250 or 79.7 per cent.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY QUARANTINED FOR RABIES

An investigation having been made as required in Chapter 369, Statutes of 1913, of the State of California, and rabies having been found to exist among dogs living within certain portions of the county of Los Angeles, the California State Board of Public Health, on February 17, 1938, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 369, Statutes of 1913, declared a quarantine against all dogs and cats within all but the northern portion of the county of Los Angeles, exclusive of Los Angeles, Pasadena, Long Beach, Santa Catalina Island, Avalon, Beverly Hills, Vernon, South Pasadena and San Fernando.

Quarantine under this act means the strict confinement upon the private premises of the owners under restraint by leash or closed cage or paddock, of all dogs and cats within the above described area.

It shall be the duty of all peace officers, all deputies of the county health officer, as well as the county health officer, to enforce the provisions of this order within the above quarantined area.

The county health officer, or other properly constituted officials, may make inspection or examination and enter upon all private premises for the enforcement of this quarantine.

Any owner, or other person in possession of any animal being held or maintained in violation of this quarantine, shall be subject to arrest on the charge of committing a misdemeanor.

UNDUE FEAR OF SYPHILIS

The justifiable prominence that has been given syphilis is focusing the public's attention on the facts and control measures associated with this devastating condition. Viewed as a medical problem and approached from that standpoint by physicians and public health officials, there is reason to believe that eventually syphilis will be lessened in its present killing and crippling power. But, in common with all other subjects that, because of their nature, are attacked intensively, there always arises the probability that a small number of the population will become over impressed, and thus develop a mania on the subject. Evidences of this fact already have been noted.

For example, only a few weeks ago a young man anxiously inquired of his physician whether or not it was safe to eat in restaurants and patronize soda fountains. Moreover, he was washing his hands and face upon the slightest provocation, and apparently was suspicioning as a host of syphilis nearly everyone with whom he came in contact. In short, he was the victim of an unjustified fear and, in consequence, was relatively miserable.

Of course, this case was an exceptional one. But, there is no doubt that many persons have developed an undue dread of contracting this disease through their ordinary daily contacts. This attitude in lesser degree is none the less a phobia also.

It should be understood that intimate contact with a person infected with syphilis usually is necessary for a transference of the disease. The chances of direct contact in the ordinary daily routine are very remote. The microbe causing syphilis, when deprived of moisture, after leaving the human host, dies very quickly.

It follows that while it is desirable for everyone to understand the nature of this disease, its methods of prevention, and the means for its cure, it is foolish to become concerned over the possibility of infection through the usual daily social contacts.—*Virginia Health Bulletin*.

Tuberculosis is not contagious in the sense that smallpox and scarlet fever are. It is, however, communicable; that is, the germs from a person with the disease may cause the same disease if deposited in the tissue of another person. These germs are coughed up or expectorated by individuals having active tuberculosis in the lungs. In the act of coughing, unless the mouth is covered, a certain amount of spray is projected into the air, and germs in these minute specks of moisture settle slowly. They may be breathed into the lungs in sufficient number to cause trouble.—Carl R. Howson, M.D., Los Angeles.

MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending
February 19, 1938

Chickenpox

853 cases: Alameda County 7, Alameda 3, Albany 4, Berkeley 10, Oakland 32, San Leandro 4, Butte County 8, Richmond 1, Crescent City 1, Placerville 2, Fresno County 29, Fresno 13, Willows 23, Imperial County 7, Calexico 10, Kern County 17, Bakersfield 2, Delano 4, Kings County 1, Hanford 7, Los Angeles County 70, Alhambra 1, Azusa 10, Compton 1, Covina 1, Culver City 3, Glendale 17, Long Beach 32, Los Angeles 134, Monrovia 2, Montebello 1, Pasadena 10, Pomona 3, Santa Monica 12, Whittier 1, Lynwood 1, Hawthorne 2, South Gate 1, Signal Hill 1, Madera County 9, Madera 1, Marin County 1, Merced County 12, Gustine 2, Mono County 1, Napa 1, Orange County 8, Anaheim 1, Fullerton 1, Orange 1, Santa Ana 5, Laguna Beach 1, Roseville 1, Riverside County 19, Riverside 2, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 13, San Bernardino County 8, Colton 3, Redlands 2, San Bernardino 4, San Diego County 7, National City 1, San Diego 19, San Francisco 69, San Joaquin County 3, Lodi 4, Stockton 7, San Luis Obispo County 7, San Luis Obispo 8, San Mateo County 8, Daly City 2, San Mateo 4, Santa Barbara County 24, Lompoc 3, Santa Barbara 24, Santa Maria 2, Santa Clara County 1, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 11, Sunnyvale 1, Shasta County 3, Solano County 2, Stanislaus County 2, Modesto 4, Turlock 1, Exeter 4, Lindsay 8, Tulare 3, Sonora 7, Ventura County 10, Oxnard 4, Santa Paula 8, Ventura 2, Yolo County 4.

Diphtheria

31 cases: Berkeley 1, Oakland 1, Richmond 1, Fresno County 1, Eureka 1, Alhambra 1, Los Angeles 9, San Fernando 1, Orange County 1, Fullerton 1, Santa Ana 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego County 1, San Diego 4, San Francisco 1, Redwood City 1, Santa Barbara 1, San Jose 1, Modesto 1, Ventura 1.

German Measles

17 cases: Berkeley 1, Oakland 3, Contra Costa County 1, Walnut Creek 1, Los Angeles County 1, Long Beach 4, Pasadena 1, Santa Ana 1, San Diego 1, Santa Clara County 1, Mountain View 1, Exeter 1.

Influenza

65 cases: Alameda 1, El Centro 1, Kern County 2, Los Angeles County 14, Alhambra 1, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 1, Los Angeles 28, South Pasadena 2, South Gate 1, Mendocino County 2, Riverside County 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego County 2, San Francisco 2, Sonoma County 4.

Measles

269 cases: Fresno County 13, Imperial 4, Kern County 65, Kings County 4, Hanford 21, Los Angeles County 3, Glendora 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 13, Pomona 3, Lynwood 1, Hawthorne 1, Madera County 4, Marin County 4, San Rafael 6, Merced County 5, Anaheim 1, Santa Ana 1, Riverside County 5, Hemet 11, San Bernardino County 1, Colton 2, Coronado 1, San Diego 23, San Joaquin County 1, Lodi 3, Stockton 1, Santa Barbara County 12, Santa Maria 1, Stanislaus County 1, Exeter 32, Lindsay 4, Tulare 2, Visalia 4, Oxnard 8, Santa Paula 5, Ventura 1.

Mumps

444 cases: Alameda County 1, Alameda 2, Berkeley 5, Emeryville 3, Oakland 62, Contra Costa County 1, Martinez 1, Richmond 1, Fresno County 25, Fresno 8, Sanger 6, Kern County 39, Los Angeles County 40, Alhambra 1, Compton 3, Glendale 15, Huntington Park 2, Long Beach 37, Los Angeles 12, Pasadena 2, Pomona 1, Santa Monica 2, Lynwood 2, Bell 1, Madera County 7, Madera 4, Sausalito 1, Mendocino County 1, Napa 1, Orange County 1, Orange 1, Santa Ana 1, Roseville 27, Sacramento 7, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 18, National City 3, Oceanside 1, San Diego 9, San Francisco 23, San Joaquin County 1, San Luis Obispo County 6, Santa Barbara County 4, Lompoc 2, Santa Barbara 2, Santa Maria 4, Santa Clara County 27, San Jose 6, Santa Cruz County 3, Santa Cruz 1, Solano County 1, Stanislaus County 1, Modesto 5, Turlock 1, Yuba City 1, Ventura 1.

Pneumonia (Lobar)

105 cases: Berkeley 1, Livermore 1, San Leandro 1, Fresno County 3, Fresno 1, Eureka 1, Kern County 3, Kings County 3, Los Angeles County 11, Alhambra 1, Arcadia 1, El Monte 1, Glendale 3, Huntington Park 1, La Verne 1, Los Angeles 27, Pasadena 2, San Fernando 2, San Gabriel 1, South Gate 2, Monterey Park 1, Madera County 2, Mendocino County 1, Santa Ana 1, La Habra 1, Riverside County 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 5, Colton 1, San Diego County 1, San Francisco 1, Santa Clara County 1, Mountain View 2, Vallejo 1, Sonoma County 14, Stanislaus County 1, Visalia 1, Yolo County 1.

Scarlet Fever

221 cases: Alameda County 1, Alameda 4, Berkeley 3, Oakland 2, Butte County 1, Calaveras County 1, Fresno County 4, Fresno 2, Kingsburg 1, Imperial County 2, El Centro 5, Kern County 7, Kings County 10, Hanford 1, Los Angeles County 21, Alhambra 1, Burbank 1, Culver City 1, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 45, Pasadena 5, Redondo 1, San Fernando 3, San

Gabriel 1, Santa Monica 1, Whittier 1, Torrance 1, South Gate 1, Bell 1, Merced County 6, Monterey County 1, Salinas 1, Napa 1, Orange County 1, Brea 1, Fullerton 1, Huntington Beach 1, Laguna Beach 2, Tustin 2, Riverside County 2, Hemet 1, Perris 1, Riverside 4, Sacramento County 1, Isleton 1, San Bernardino County 4, Rialto 1, San Diego County 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 11, San Joaquin County 6, Lodi 4, Stockton 3, San Luis Obispo County 1, Santa Maria 6, Santa Clara County 4, Gilroy 2, San Jose 2, Benicia 2, Santa Rosa 1, Stanislaus County 1, Oakdale 1, Sutter County 1, Yuba City 2, Tehama County 1, Red Bluff 1, Exeter 1, Santa Paula 1, Ventura 2, Yolo County 1, Davis 1, California 1.*

Smallpox

31 cases: Kings County 4, Los Angeles County 4, Los Angeles 1, Madera County 3, San Joaquin County 14, Solano County 2, Sonora 3.

Typhoid Fever

One case: Los Angeles.

Whooping Cough

364 cases: Alameda County 5, Alameda 1, Berkeley 8, Emeryville 2, Oakland 17, San Leandro 3, Butte County 1, Calaveras County 2, Contra Costa County 3, Richmond 6, Fresno County 1, Fresno 2, Imperial County 1, Kern County 1, Hanford 1, Lassen County 9, Los Angeles County 17, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 2, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 4, Sierra Madre 3, Torrance 1, Madera County 5, Marin County 1, Yosemite National Park 1, Merced County 1, Napa 2, Orange County 3, Santa Ana 1, Placer County 1, Roseville 2, Riverside 1, Sacramento 41, Redlands 4, San Bernardino 2, San Diego County 9, Chula Vista 4, La Mesa 1, National City 6, San Diego 18, San Francisco 65, San Joaquin County 12, Lodi 5, Manteca 4, Stockton 12, San Luis Obispo County 1, Paso Robles 1, Redwood City 3, Santa Clara County 10, Mountain View 4, Palo Alto 8, San Jose 6, Santa Cruz County 4, Solano County 2, Benicia 9, Oakdale 3, Trinity County 1, Ventura 1, Yolo County 8, Sacramento County 9.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

6 cases: Alameda County 1, Kern County 1, Los Angeles 2, Riverside County 1, Sonoma County 1.

Dysentery (Amoebic)

One case: Riverside County.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

One case: San Francisco.

Leprosy

2 cases: Oakland 1, Sacramento County 1.

Pellagra

One case: Los Angeles.

Pollomyelitis

3 cases: Pacific Grove 1, Riverside 1, Tulare 1.

Trachoma

13 cases: Bishop 4, Kern County 1, Lake County 2, Riverside County 3, Tulare County 3.

Trichinosis

One case: Marin County.

Jaundice (Epidemic)

3 cases: Hayward 1, El Dorado County 1, Turlock 1.

Food Poisoning

22 cases: Los Angeles 1, Brea 3, San Francisco 16, Santa Cruz County 2.

Undulant Fever

3 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Salinas 1, Fullerton 1.

Coccidioidal Granuloma

5 cases: Kern County 4, Bakersfield 1.

Septic Sore Throat

5 cases: Berkeley 1, Los Angeles County 1, Pasadena 1, Madera County 1, Ventura 1.

Rabies (Animal)

40 cases: Alameda County 1, Fresno County 2, Los Angeles County 7, Burbank 1, Glendale 3, Los Angeles 19, Pasadena 3, Pacific Grove 1, Redlands 1, San Jose 1, Ventura County 1.

* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

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